

The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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IN THIS ISSUE

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Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, May 28, 1996 25¢

East County youths triumphant!

David Walling picked as one of nation's top baseball prospects

by Joe Naiman

College Sports magazine's March issue listed El Capitan's David Walling among the nation's top 100 baseball prospects graduating this year. Walling's athletic and academic work has paid off, earning him a baseball scholarship at the University of California Santa Barbara.



David Walling at bat

"He's worked real hard to put himself in that position, said El Capitan baseball coach Steve Vickery. "He's a real quality pitcher and he's also taken care of business in the classroom."

Walling, a pitcher and infielder, stands 6-feet-6-inches and weighs 185 pounds. In 1995 he compiled a 9-3 win-loss record and a 2.14 earned run average as El Capitan went to the CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) San Diego Section's Division II finals.

This year, his earned run average was up, but he has won eight games without a loss, including the semifinal win over La Jolla High School May 25 which sent the Vaqueros into the CIF finals. He also has a save, and has struck out 75 batters in 65 innings.

While Walling is one of the nation's top high school baseball players, he would not be the first member of his family to win the CIF-SD Player of the Year honors. Ken Walling, his uncle, earned that honor in 1963, the year he graduated from El Capitan. Ken, now deceased, spent time in the Cubs' minor league organization.

Ken Walling was one of four children, including three boys.

Glen Walling, David's father, graduated from El Capitan in

1971 and played baseball at Point Loma Nazarene College. Glen subsequently attended San Diego State University in a non-baseball capacity and is now a math teacher at Grossmont College.

David spent his earliest years living in El Cajon and moved to Rancho Bernardo when he was eight. David spent two years on the Rancho Bernardo High School baseball team, but baseball brought him back to Lakeside. His sister graduated from that school in 1995.

"It's a great program to be a part of," he said of El Capitan's baseball team, noting that the coaches at El Capitan were one of the reasons he moved to Lakeside to play for the Vaqueros.

Walling moved in with his grandparents and enrolled at El Capitan for his junior year. Shortly after he transferred to El Capitan, his father moved back to Lakeside.

Ironically, Walling knew many of his El Capitan teammates prior to moving to Lakeside. Adam Taylor and his brother also grew up in El Cajon, as did Travis McRoberts, his best friend. "It's kind of awkward that we both transferred back to the same spot," said Walling of playing with McRoberts.

Taylor (dubbed "Chewy" in Little League), is the Vaqueros' first baseman. Walling had played first base when not pitching, but Taylor's incumbency has caused Walling to take up third base.

"I've always had to live in the shadow of Chewy, because he's such a great hitter," Walling said.

Despite his recognition from magazines and college recruiters, Walling said he is a better player because Taylor and several others have superior skills.

"Chewy has made me work harder at first base," he said. "I've always wanted to play there. He's my inspiration."

Walling's baseball career also includes El Cajon National and Rancho Bernardo Little League play, Pony League competition in Rancho Bernardo and Colt League tenure in Lakeside.

The pitching coach at UC Santa Barbara was Walling's reason for selecting that school, he said.

Walling will probably major in business or education and is contemplating following his father into a teaching career.

If Walling is selected high
Continued on Page 3

D'Ann Dobbins named 1996 Fairest of the Fair

by Greg Eichelberger

The 1996 Fairest of the Fair competition is now finished, and, for the fourth time in the last seven years, a young lady from the East County has brought home top honors.

D'Ann Dobbins, a 19-year-old Grossmont College student has claimed the crown worn by Rachel Welch in 1958, and vied for by Barbara Mandrell in 1963. She received the coveted tiara from last year's winner, Kyah Lattimer of Fallbrook, by edging out Miss Rancho Peñasquitos, Jocelyn Soriano, and El Cajon's own Marisa Sadler in one of the closest contests in Del Mar history: the competition between the 28 women almost ended in a tie.

Dobbins, daughter of Trent and Betty Dobbins of La Mesa, wowed the judges with her grace, style and ability to think on her feet.

She impressed the panel, which included KFMB's Sandra Maas, Charger and Packer Hall of Fame cornerback Willie Buchanan and "Leave It To Beaver" star Jerry Mathers, with a forceful answer to a query on her chosen profession. Her desire to become an advertising executive became public there at the pageant.

Later, Master of Ceremonies Jack White of Channel 10 made the startling announcement: "Ladies and gentleman, for the first time in Fairest of the Fair history, we have a tie."

While the crowd collected itself, the judges had one more look and decreed that Miss La Mesa would wear the crown.

Thus, Dobbins becomes the fourth young woman from La Mesa to emerge victorious in this competition, joining Sharon Jones (1982), Adabelle Robertson (1983), and Jervaun Marino (1990).

In fact, East County has dominated this affair since Jones' triumph with eight titles, four in the 1990s alone.

"I'm just stunned," said Dobbins after her win. "When I was competing for Miss La Mesa, I never thought it would come to this. These girls are all so talented, to be chosen from among them is the greatest compliment anyone could be given."

And if popped buttons were any indication, her father was no doubt the proudest man in town.

"I'm so happy for her," said the auto parts delivery driver. "She commuted back and forth



Fairest of the Fair 1996 D'Ann Dobbins

each Sunday to practice and worked so hard for this. I couldn't be more thrilled for her."

Her boyfriend, Jack Sheets, attested to the toil Dobbins devoted to this victory.

"I've never seen anyone work harder or want this more," he said. "She had a goal and she stuck with it. That's what I admire about her: her tenacity and her strength. Her answer to that impromptu question sewed it up for her, I believe."

Her tearful mother could only sob, happily: "My baby. My baby," while hugging her daughter as only a parent at these moments can.

Now the real fun begins for the young queen, who next will serve as hostess for the Del Mar Fair (June 18 - July 7) and subsequently spend her year-long reign making public appearances at various events as Miss San Diego County. She will then go on to compete in the Miss California USA pageant, which is the preliminary to the Miss USA and Miss Universe titles.

"This year it was beauty and brains," said Fran Hershman, Fairest of the Fair coordinator. "These girls are such a wonderful group. They all have marvelous career plans, and the intellect to

succeed at whatever they try, no matter how they did tonight."

The other judges for this event, in addition to the three previously named, were Debbie Anne Thompson, the 1995-96 Miss Wheelchair California (for the first time, a Miss Wheelchair Fairest of the Fair, was chosen, Pam Albertson); Lillian Lim, the first Filipino-American woman judge appointed in the United States; and Lori Brickley, 1996 San Diego County Teacher of the Year.

East County's other contestants included Lakeside's Kristi Reilly, Santee's Erin Fields, Spring Valley's Claire Dumlaio and Alisa Schuman of Santee, who competed in the wheelchair event.

This year's theme was "The Fabulous Fifties," and the opening number presented all of the contestants in poodle skirts, bobby socks and saddle shoes, dancing to a medley consisting of "The Stroll," "Chantilly Lace," "Rock Around The Clock" and "At The Hop."

Singer Maria Ostapiej Vaccaro, a runner-up while Miss Chula Vista in 1984, provided some rollicking rock numbers of her own.

Sheriff's Log

April 27, 1996

7700 blk. Palm. Commercial burglary. Two six packs. \$20 value.

April 27 - May 1, 1996

1800 blk. Skyline Dr. Vehicle burglary. Cellular phone/Cap/Cof. \$128 value.

April 28, 1996

7000 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. Cash/wallet/IMG. \$526 value.

7800 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. Purse/CKS/DL/PC. \$42. value.

April 28-30, 1996

3200 blk. Acacia St. Vehicle burglary. Stereo/speakers. \$430 value.

April 30, 1996

6800 blk. Federal Blvd. Auto theft. '95 Niss Max. \$20,000 value.

6900 blk. Federal Blvd. Strong armed robbery. Unknown amount of money.

7900 blk. Golden Ave. Petty theft. ID/Uniform/Clothing. \$280 value.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Petty theft. Bottle Kahlua. \$42 value.

April 30-May 1, 1996

1900 blk Dain Dr. Vehicle burglary. Cellular phone/Pager/Video. \$1,525 value.

2600 blk. Main St. Grand theft. Nail Driver x2/Sander. \$2,200 value.

May 1, 1996

7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft-shoplift. PG test/soap/lotion. \$20.16 value.

7400 blk. Pacific Ave. Auto theft. '77 Toy Cel. \$500 value.

7500 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. Wallet/SS/DL MI. \$10 value.

3500 blk. West St. Petty theft. Queen. HLR Puppy. \$200 value.

May 2, 1996

7400 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. Purse/DL/Cash. \$516 value.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Grand theft. Laptop computer/camcorder. \$820 value.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Strong armed robbery. Unknown liquor. Value unknown.

May 3, 1996

3100 blk. Crane St. Auto theft. Motorcycle trailer. \$1,200 value.

8400 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. Cab fare. \$90.96

7100 blk. Broadway. Strong armed robbery. Cash, CC/ATM/DL. \$1,340 value.

May 5, 1996

7500 blk. Church St. Auto theft. '84 Toy. Cor. Gold. \$1,500 value.

May 5-6, 1996

7600 blk. Lemon Ave. Vehicle burglary. Cellular phone/bag/glass. \$529 value.

May 7, 1996

1700 blk. Skyline Dr. Strong armed robbery. Car stereo/\$/Cash. \$175 value.

May 8-9, 1996

6900 blk. Central Ave. Grand theft. Mountain bikes X2 \$909 value.

May 9, 1996

3100 blk. School Ln. Grand theft. Stereo/CD's/DL. \$851 value.

1700 blk. Primera. Auto theft. '83 Toy Cres Blu. \$4,000 value.

May 10, 1996

7500 blk. Broadway. Auto theft. '85 Niss 200 Gray. \$850 value.

May 10-11, 1996

6600 blk. Federal Blvd. Vehicle burglary. 02 Monitor/drill. \$1,760 value.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

May 3, 1996 through May 9, 1996

3200 blk. Olive St. Difficulty breathing.

7800 blk. Palm St. Medical aid.

7600 blk. Broadway. Traffic accident.

3400 blk. Main st. Seizure.

1600 blk. Watwood Rd. Back pain.

7300 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Assault victim.

1400 blk. San Altos Pl. Extinguished fire.

7300 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Medical aid.

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Vehicle accident.

3200 blk. College Pl. Multifamily residential fire.

8100 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Assault victim.

8400 blk. Roy St. Reaction to medication.

8000 blk. Golden Ave. Person down.

2800 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Diabetic problem.

3600 blk. Grove St. Person down.

Buena Vista Ave./Broadway. Vehicle accident.

3200 blk. College Pl. Assist elderly.

1400 blk. El Prado Ave. Child locked in auto.

2100 blk. El Dora St. Assist elderly.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Vehicle fire.

Hwy 94/College Ave. Vehicle fire/freeway.

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Head injury.

1900 blk. El Dora St. Abdominal pains.

2300 blk. Ravenwood Dr. Unresponsive.

1500 blk. Madera St. Fall.

Washington Ave./Lincoln St. Traffic accident.

7000 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Chest pains.

7000 blk. Broadway. Medical aid.

1500 blk. Madera St. Bleeding.

2800 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Commercial/industrial fire.

Palm Ave./Lemon Grove Ave. Vehicle accident.

The Lemon Grove Review

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Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100

Incorporated: 1977

Area: 3.75 sq. mi.

Median income: \$34,399

Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom

Council: Thomas Clabby

Craig Lake

Dwight Shelley

City Manager: Doug Yount

Planning Director: Jim Butler

Attorney: Gloria McLean

City Clerk: Christine Taub

Sheriff's Capt.: Yolanda Collins

Fire Chief: William Wright

Congressional district:

52nd - Duncan Hunter

State Senate district:

40th - Steve Peace

State Assembly district:

77th - Steve Baldwin

Supervisory district:

2nd - Dianne Jacob

1993 taxable sales: \$1.47 million

Libraries: 1

Post offices: 1

Parks: 4

Recreation centers: 1



College Notes

Martha Louise Olow of Lemon Grove was among the 665 gradu-
ates to receive their diplomas at Louisiana Tech University's spring
commencement exercises this month. Olow majored in management
information systems.

Jason M. Schwarz of Lemon Grove is among the 2,500 high school
seniors recently awarded a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship.
Schwarz, who will soon graduate from Gompers Secondary School,
will receive between \$250 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of
undergraduate study at the University of Southern California.

Schwarz is interested in pursuing studies in computer engineering
and science. Besides being a valedictorian and captain of the varsity
tennis team, Schwarz was the Math Team president and worked on
both the campus newspaper and yearbook staffs.

Finalists for the Merit Scholarships must maintain high academic
records, be endorsed by their high school principals, excel in a qualify-
ing test and provide information about their activities, interests and
goals.

Letter to the Editor

How long has this been going on?

This is not a letter of complaint! It concerns the Lemon Grove
Library. Who could complain about that wonderful organization? I am
an avid reader and check out several books every few weeks. I donate
books to the library whenever I can.

My questions are directed to the Lemon Grove Review and to the
Friends of the Lemon Grove Library. Why does the Lemon Grove
Review print a very expensive and informative library newsletter?

Who or what prompted the Lemon Grove Review to dedicate space
to the library newsletter in the first place, and how long ago?

Perhaps, the next newsletter could include an answer to my ques-
tions. Probably, many others would like to know too, but just fail to ask.

SHERMAN H. JOHNSON

Lemon Grove

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T S
No. 95-06250CONV-SC Loan No.
1789012 Title Order No. 2961827-15
Investor/Insurer No. 1662510649 APN
No. 577-202-25-00 YOU ARE IN DE-
FAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST
DATED 08/26/94 UNLESS YOU TAKE
ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROP-
ERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC
SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANA-
TION OF THE NATURE OF THE PRO-
CEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU
SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. No-
tice is hereby given that CTC Fore-
closure Services Corporation, as duly
appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed
of Trust executed by Margaret A. Pit-
man, an unnamed woman, dated
08/26/94 and recorded 09/01/94, as in-
strument No. 1994-0524785, in Book -
Page -) of Official Records in the of-
fice of the County Recorder of San
Diego County, State of California, will
sell on 06/04/96 at 10:00 AM, at the
South entrance to the County Court-
house, 220 West Broadway, San
Diego, California at public auction, to
the highest bidder for cash or check as
described below, payable in full at time
of sale, all right, title, and interest con-
veyed to and now held by it under said
Deed of Trust, in the property situated in
said County and State and as more fully
described in the above referenced
Deed of Trust. The street address and
other common designation, if any, of
the real property described above is
purported to be 1617 Skyline Drive,
Lemon Grove, CA 91945. The under-
signed Trustee disclaims any liability for
any incorrectness of the street address
and other common designation, if any,
shown herein. The total amount of the
unpaid balance with interest thereon
of the obligation secured by the property to
be sold plus reasonable estimated
costs, expenses and advances at the
time of the initial publication of the No-
tice of Sale is \$161,928.89. It is possi-
ble that at the time of sale the opening
bid may be less than the total indebted-
ness due. In addition to cash, the Trust-
ee will accept cashier's checks drawn
on a state or national bank, a check
drawn by a state or federal credit union,
or a check drawn by a state or federal
savings and loan association, savings
association, or savings bank specified
in Section 5102 of the Financial Code
and authorized to do business in this
state. Said sale will be made, in an
"AS IS" condition, but without covenant
or warranty, express or implied regard-
ing title, possession or encumbrances,
to satisfy the indebtedness secured by
said Deed of Trust, advances thereun-
der, with interest as provided, and the
unpaid principal of the Note secured by
said Deed of Trust with interest thereon
as provided in said Note, plus fees,
charges and expenses of the Trustee
and of the trusts created by said Deed
of Trust. CTC Foreclosure Services
Corporation, 400 Countrywide Way,
SV-88, Simi Valley, CA 93065, Phone
(805) 520-5100 ext. 2686, Sale Informa-
tion (916) 387-0236, By Heide Guan-
ter, Trustee's Sale Officer, Dated
03/16/96 ASAP204946 5/14, 5/21, 5/28

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Grossmont Union High
School District will receive bids
for

Maintenance for District-Wide
Telephone System
1996-97 Fiscal Year

Each bid shall be submitted on a
form obtained at the Purchasing
Department of said District locat-
ed at 1100 Murray Drive, El
Cajon, CA 92020, shall be sealed
and filed in said Purchasing
Department on or before 2:00
p.m. on

June 5, 1996

and will be publicly opened and
read aloud at that time and place.

The District reserves the right to
award to the lowest responsive
bidder meeting bid specifications.
The Grossmont Union High
School District reserves the right
to reject any or all bids to accept
or reject any one or more items of
a bid or to waive any irregularities
or informalities in the bids or in
the bidding.

No bidder may withdraw his bid
for a period of thirty (30) days
after the date set for the opening
of bids.

In the event of identical bids, the
Governing Board may determine
by lot which bid shall be accepted
per Public Contract Code No.
20117.

Maynard Olsen
Clerk of the Governing Board
Grossmont Union High School
District
of San Diego County, California

Bid No. 2646

Lemon Grove Review
May 21 & 28, 1996

\$35! Send your Fictitious Business
Statement to
**The Lemon
Grove Review**
Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946
(Don't pay the Daily Californian \$42)

enough in pro baseball's amateur draft this June and receives a reasonable signing offer, he has the option of turning professional, but Walling's academic performance allows him the luxury of declining a pro offer and going to college first.

"We really try to emphasize the scholar-athlete, so he can make that decision if he has the option," said Vickery. "I just think he's a quality kid. It's just nice to have some choices. He's put himself in a position to be able to make a choice."

The CIF final Thursday will close out Walling's career at El Capitan. "I love these guys," Walling said of his El Capitan teammates. "They're great guys."

Mt. Miguel El Trovador News Briefs

The Spring Comedy opens tonight and will run through Saturday with curtain at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3. This year's production entitled, "Out of Order," is a hilarious farce set in the Colonial Hotel in Washington, D.C. The plot is fast-paced and filled with confusion and mistaken identities. A tricky window and a unique closet may steal the show. Cast members, under the direction of Myrna Goodwin, are: Jonathan Carr, Doug Chenevert, Chentel Kelley, Jamie Middleton, Dave Brooks, Jennifer Quinn, Nick Hedstrom, Wendian Nichols, Danille Saullo and Jon Teysko.

Speech and drama teacher Myrna Goodwin was recently inducted into the California High School Speech Association Hall of Fame. Mrs. Goodwin has had more than 100 students qualify to attend the state championship, four of them finished first. Last year's speech team ranked in the top 10 at State Speech Finals. She has sent eight students to nationals in the past five years. She has also been active in the San Diego Imperial Valley Speech League and the State Speech Council.

The 1996-1997 *El Trovador* newspaper staff has been announced as follows: Editor-in-chief Nick Johns, Managing Editor Amy Smith, News Co-Editors Heather Baxter and Christa Hillenborg, Features Editor Shana Gaters, Features Assistant Jennifer Quinn, Sports Editor Lyra Poston, Editorials Editor Diana Julian, Advertising Manager Raelene Sames, reporters Brianne Eschenauer, Josh Hensley, Shaun Drake, Jennifer Credon and Ashley Grand, artists Jim Howard, Shaun Drake and Shaun Hundley, photographers Jon Carr and Melissa Sampson, Business Manager Christina Geyer. Applications are still being accepted for assistant sports and editorials editors and photographers.

Senior Calendar: June 7 - Senior Prom at Sheraton Grande Torrey Pines, La Jolla; June 13 - Senior Breakfast; June 16 - Baccalaureate at Skyline Wesleyan Church; June 20 - 12:15 p.m. Graduation Practice and 6 p.m. Graduation Ceremony in the stadium.

The Choral Department, under the direction of Laurel Sunde, is presenting its Spring Concert Friday at 7 p.m. at Skyline Wesleyan Church. Tickets are \$5. The Ladies Ensemble and Mixed Ensemble both received an Excellent rating at the California Music Educators of American Festival on April 24.

Matador art students who won honors at the Ninth Annual Grossmont District Art Show are: 1st place (Mixed Media Adv.) - Thai Bui, 2nd Place (Mixed Media Adv.) - Melanie Wright, 3rd Place (Mixed Media Adv.) - Thai Bui, 1st Place (Mixed Media Beg.) - Monica Walter, 3rd Place (Photo Adv.) - Rianna Child, 1st Place (Drawing Adv.) - Thai Bui, 1st Place (Illustration Beg.) - Dave Suguitan. Honorable Mentions went to Melissa Hill and Todd Harris. Both Thai Bui and Todd Harris have been accepted to Cal Arts.

Staff news: The Grossmont Education Association honored eight Mount Miguel staff members for their years of service on May 8 at Pizza Nova: Larry P. January and William Fusselman - 30 years; Edward V. Marikle, Jr. and John R. Stende - 25 years; Doris Faye Miller, Joan Hafer, Fernando Espana, Jr. and Donna M. Tucker - 20 years. Guidance Information Specialist Rochelle Matter was selected the "Employee of the Month" for May.

Individual Student Honors: John Bean placed 1st in the "Drums Across California" competition in Dana Hills on May 11. Claudia Lopez was crowned Senorita Latina as part of the May 5 celebrations. Last year's Senorita Latina Gilda Gutierrez did the honors Janida Disengomoka and Nykesha Potts both placed at the local level of the national French contest of the American Association of Teachers of French and received their awards on May 11 at the awards ceremony in Balboa Park.

The swim team broke two new school records at the swim finals. Sophomore Elizabeth Tilaro broke the 50 Freestyle 26.26 record and Junior Katie Atwood broke the 200 Individual Medley 2:23.75 record.

Reflections '96, the literary magazine, is now available for only \$3 in Room 231. This annual magazine features poetry, prose, art and photographs by Mount Miguel students and is a production of the creative writing classes of Patricia Curtis and Mark Burns.

This year's editor was Erik Peterson. Showcase Writers of La Mesa will be judging the magazine and the winners will be presented with awards at the joint awards banquet held with *El Trovador* on June 11 at the Olive Garden in Grossmont Center at 6 p.m.

Don't keep the good word to yourself! Send your community news today!

Commentary

by Lois Heiserman

Supervisors ignore voters and volunteers

County supervisors recently snubbed the voters and squandered the volunteer efforts of a blue ribbon commission looking at ways to streamline local government.

It's not surprising supervisors are less enthusiastic about the work of the "reinventing government" panel they created now that the group has recommended eliminating their jobs. But they are shirking their public responsibility in stonewalling a voter-approved process.

The Board of Supervisors recently decided to ignore the final report of the commission. Supervisors sent their 21-member panel on government efficiency packing without even setting public meetings to air the group's recommendations.

The group spent more than a year and a half wrestling with the problems of fragmented and overlapping responsibilities of dozens of governmental units serving San Diegans. It proposed dramatic changes to eliminate waste and duplication among the hodge-podge of city, county and special district jurisdictions in the region.

In 1993, a large majority of local voters strongly endorsed a serious look at making local government work better. In his State of the County message in 1993, former Board of Supervisors Chairman Brian Bilbray announced that he was unselfishly willing to consider a major revamp of local governments, even if it meant eliminating the Board of Supervisors. Amidst great fanfare and "good government" editorials, supervisors asked voters in November, 1993 to approve Proposition A, which called for appointment of a panel of experts and citizens to consider sweeping reforms.

The highly-touted commission created by the board included prominent business and community leaders, such as former Supervisor George Bailey,

former Lemon Grove City Manager Jack Shelver and Dr. Glen Sparrow of San Diego State University's School of Public Administration and Urban Studies. They took the job seriously and proposed major realignments in the region's confusing political turf. They proposed a plan to phase in a regional government that would eventually replace the county and city governments we have today.

These panel members were politically very savvy. They suggested sweeping changes but called for lengthy public review and gradual phase-in of reforms only after additional voter approval. They knew their recommendations would draw self-interested political fire from entrenched officeholders and bureaucrats, but they believed they were doing an important job.

It could be that major changes in our local political network will prove impractical anyway given the power of special interests and the egos of incumbents who have large personal stakes in maintaining the status quo.

However, the supervisors have short-circuited the democratic process by shelving the report prematurely. Open forums should be scheduled around the county so both citizens and public officials can become informed about the reform proposals and discuss the pros and cons.

The Board of Supervisors' poor judgment indicates a lack of gratitude for the efforts of the restructuring commission and a lack of respect for the voters they are supposed to be serving.

Lois Heiserman served on the Lemon Grove City Council for 14 years and is still active on the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce board and the East County Council on Aging.

New format not converting KECR fans

by Mark Morgan-Hallburn

Rock 'N Roll and Rap 'N Raunch have replaced Old-Time Religion on the radio as KECR-FM (93.3) has changed formats under another new ownership. Listeners aren't impressed with the new sound.

"It's disgusting!" Thelma Atkinson, 68, of La Mesa says. "I used to listen at night. Now they have some guy in Florida talking about lesbian sex. I don't listen anymore."

Gene Leslie, 57, of El Cajon, agrees. "I always liked it," he says. "It had the type of Christian music that I liked, being older, more to the older crowd. I don't listen to the new station at all."

After decades of ownership, the El Cajon-based station was recently sold by Family Radio Network (FRN) for a reported \$12 million, then re-sold to Ohio's Jacor Broadcasting for \$13.5 million. Jacor is currently formatting the new KHTS with a satellite feed from a station in Tampa Bay, Florida (WFLZ, 93.3 FM), which is owned by the group.

Jacor also recently purchased XTRA-Sports (690 AM) and 91X, XTRA-FM, with studios in San Diego and transmitters in Mexico. FRN still retains ownership of KECR-AM 910, with studios beneath its transmitter towers at in Lakeside. That station's format remains the same, but with new local staff.

The station is currently being run without local management and Jacor officials did not return calls. Neither did Harold Camping, president and general manager of the Oakland-based FRN, recuperating from surgery.

East County's Mark Larsen, who runs KPRZ 1210 AM in San

Diego, however, says it all comes down to money.

"It was driven strictly by economics from what I understand. Because I guess Harold Camping's organization wanted to get some of the fruits of the monetary labor of it," Larsen said, attempting to suppress a grin. "And that's the nature of radio today. I don't know if they needed to raise some money or what have you. It was certainly a way to do that."

KECR-AM General Manager Bob Babcock joined the network after the sale and couldn't comment on the sale of the FM station. He did say that 910 AM is hoping to increase the power of its signal to better reach the North County. He was able to confirm that the AM station was moved to the transmitter site and that new studios were built there.

San Diego's radio market is often very competitive, but Larsen says he is sorry to see the Christian FM station leave the airwaves.

"If it means that signal will be just another Contemporary Hit Radio station, there's plenty of those," he said. "There's plenty of Adult Contemporary radio stations. What's rare are those formats that are unique, and KECR-FM had a certain format that ministered to a certain audience. While we may have shared some listeners with KPRZ, there's a little different style, and that's good."

Larsen said he doesn't like the way the business is going, with very few companies owning lots of radio stations. That means more of a "cookie-cutter mentality" and less local control.

KPRZ is owned by Salem Media, a large corporation based in Camarillo, California, but Larsen claims that local stations all have a say in their own management.

"The way that the company is built, there's a lot of local autonomy," he said. "We can really be talking with the folks, so it's a good thing."

Larsen claims that recent station sale costs prohibit his company from putting an FM Christian station on the air in San Diego. They typically start stations from the ground up, including the initial licensing and construction process, rather than purchase existing outlets.

Jacor, on the other hand, has become a strong buyer of radio stations across the United States, including Denver, where the company is a heavy hitter, owning most of the major rock music-format FM stations.

Perhaps one of the reasons KECR-FM was sold was to raise revenues. Another may have been lack of listeners. The station had never scored strong in Arbitron ratings (though most Inspirational formats do not, Larsen confirmed), and even listener-supported stations need to reach an audience to stay alive.

KECR-FM apparently had few listeners, especially among women ages 18-35, the group that advertisers consider very important. An informal telephone poll of several East County churches turned up few regular listeners. Most had not even heard of KECR-FM.

One such non-listener is 18-year-old Jason Beahl, who attends Shadow Mountain Community Church. He didn't listen to KECR-FM when it was on the air, and doesn't miss it now. He thinks the format from Tampa Bay is funny.

"I guess Tuesday is 'No Panty Day' and there's 'Free Ballin' Day,' and 'Lesbian Day' there's just other stuff," he said. "It's pretty cool — well, it's not cool, but it's funny."

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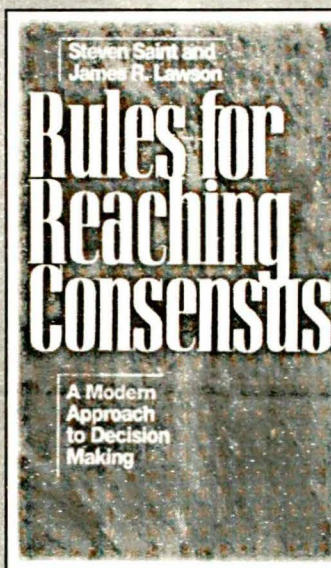
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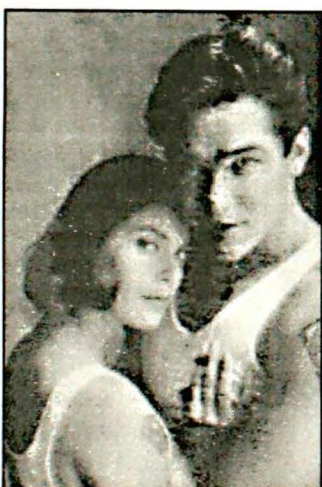
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